to solve the problems faced by the Tehri Dam oustees after their resettlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Package for Handlooms

605. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have annaunced package of Rs. 1162 crores for handlooms;

(b) whether it is also a fact that under the package a sum of Rs. 523 crores has been earmarked for providing looms to about 3.27 lakh loom weavers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at present 2.79 lakh looms are lying idle;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any efforts are proposed to be made for rehabilitation of these loom weavers and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Government has announced two major packages during the current year for handloom sector. The first package intends to cover larger number of handloom weavers under the ongoing schemes of Ministry of Rural Development, the outlay for which is Rs. 682.65 crores over the next three years. The other scheme relates to setting up of 3000 Handloom Development Centres over the next four years; the total outlay for this is Rs. 849.15 crores, of which the Central Govt. grant component is Rs. 321.325 crores.

(b) Yes Sir. Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme an amount of Rs. 523.20 crores has been envisaged for the purpose of providing looms and other inputs to 3.27 lakh loomless weavers.

(c) According to one estimate there are about 2.79 lakhs handloms which are idle.

(d) While the survey did not record the reasons of idleness of these looms, idleness in handlooms is generally due to lack of linkage of the weaver with handloom agencies or master-weavers, and mis-match of prices of raw materials and finished goods. A substantial no. of the idle looms are domestic looms, and not commercial looms.

(e) Schemes like setting up of Handloom Development Centre, Project package, Margin Money for Destitute Weavers and Market Development Assistance are intended to increase employment of underemployed weavers.

Allocation of quota in the new policy on textiles and readymade garment exports

606. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the new textile and readymade garment exports policy quota will be allocated in consideration of previous year performance;

(b) what is the number of new textile and readymade garment export oriented units which are being set up; and

(c) whether Government propose to reserve quota for these new units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Under the Textile and Garment Export Entitlement Distribution policies for the period 1994-95 allotments under Past Performance Entitlement System and Non-Quota-Exporters Entitlement System would be made on the basis of exports during the calendar year preceding the year immediately before the allotment year.

(b) As per information available with the Ministry of Textiles, a total of 194 approvals have been issued since 1991-92 for readymade garments and textile units under the 100 per cent Export Oriented Scheme.

(c) No such proposal is under Government's consideration.

Availability of cotton yarn and Central assistance to the weavers of Maharashtra & Gujarat

607. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to supply certain number of cotton yarn bales per month ot Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the said quantity of cotton yarn is proposed to be made available to the weavers of Gujarat and Maharashtra at present;

(c) whether the prices of cotton yarn colours and chemicals have registered unprecedented increase due to which the weavers are not in a position to purchase these items from open market without the central assistance;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to provide Assistance to improve the conditions of the handicraft weavers in the State; and

(e) if so, the year-wise details of the assistance given by Government to weavers in Gujarat and Maharashtra during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Government do not directly supply cotton yarn to the weavers in the country. A number of State agencies with financial assistance from Central Government are undertaking supply of cotton yarn to weavers of Gujarat and Maharashtra in addition to private sources of supply. The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) is also supplementing the yarn supply operations of State Handloom Agencies.

(c) Trade of yarn, dyes and chemicals has been affected by the rise in prices in these commodities; but there are no reports of shortages of yarn and dyes and chemicals. Price of cotton yarn is stable for more than a year.

(d) A number of schemes like workshed-cum-housing scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Market Development Assistance, Janata Cloth Scheme and Project Package Scheme are in operation in these States. Weavers Service Centres located at Ahmedabad, Bombay and Nagpur have been providing improved designs to weavers for increasing the marketability of their products. A scheme for supply of yarn at mill rate prices to handloom weavers of the country including those in Gujarat and Maharashtra is being implemented.

(e) Substantial assistance for implementation of various ongoing schemes for the development of the handlooms has been provided to the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra as under: